WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY - Founded December 17, 1857 NOV./DEC. 1989

# WASHTENAW IMPRESSIONS

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER
## MUSEUM COUNTDOWN: OIL TANKS OUT, UM HOLDS OFF

If you have driven along Main Street recently you have noticed a very large hole in the ground at Beakes -- just at the location where WCHS is attempting to move the UM's Wall Street house.

The city has removed five underground tanks, and a great quantity of contaminated soil under the tanks. (Yes, the tanks had leaked.) The gas station building is still there, but every bit of the rest of the lot has been dug out to its perimeter.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has inspected the hole, and has determined that more earth needs to be dug out in certain areas.

How well this process of removing contaminated soil goes along, and how long it takes, has, of course, great impact on our Museum Project.

In the meantime we are proceeding with the necessary arrangements that must be made before we can actually move the structure. We submitted an application for site plan approval and PUD zoning (Planned Unit Development).

This has been approved by Planning Commission and will go to City Council in early November. Final approval is scheduled for the first council meeting in December.

WCHS's request for a Michigan Equity Grant has been forwarded to the state by the city. Marty Evashevski did a wonderful job getting the application together. These grants will be announced in December.

A Fund-Raising committee has formed. Eugene Fowler of NBD has agreed to be Finance Chairman.

A museum fund account was established with a contribution from Forrest Alter. He has the distinction of being the first one to come forth with a check!

Quorum Communications, Inc. has volunteered to help with public relations and publicity, as has the Ann Arbor News. Karen Mendelson, an attorney, will be helping us with legal arrangements.

So many of you have responded positively to requests for help, it is very gratifying. I'd like to thank each of you.

Best of all, the University has agreed to hold off on their parking lot until mid-December. That is the soonest we could have formal approval from the city to move the house.

What we need most of all now is a favorable decision by the DNR that the contaminated soil has been dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

If you have questions or wish an update on museum progress, please call.

**Karen O'Neal**
**665-2242**

## ROAD NAME HISTORY TOLD IN BOOKLET

Margaret Underwood, who led the successful campaign to restore the name of the road she lives on to Glazier Way, has recently published a booklet detailing the history of some road and street names in her area and the families for whom they were named.

In recent years her street was signed Glacier Way as if it were named for geological features. Actually she says it was named for Richard Bunker Glazier, a pioneer who took up land there June 8, 1833. Her home is on the foundation of the original Glazier two-story log house.

The booklet, *Roads of Northeast Ann Arbor, Michigan*, tells about Botsford, Earhart, Frederick, Geddes, Glazier, Goss, Green, Scott and Young. She has given copies to schools in the area and to the Society.

## NEW DIRECTOR NAMED

Barbara Mueller has been appointed director at large on the WCHS Board by President Karen O'Neal.

## LIGHTHOUSE HISTORY OF GREAT LAKES NOVEMBER 19 TOPIC

Michigan once had a lighthouse about every 30-odd miles along its 3,000 miles of coastline. Although some still stand, electronics now does their job.

Richard Moehl, president of the Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association, will give a slide talk about *The History of Great Lakes Lighthouses*, at the WCHS meeting at 2 p.m. Sunday, November 19, at Bentley Library, 1150 Beal, UM North Campus.

Moehl, who became interested in preservation of lighthouses about ten years ago, now heads the 1,400 member international organization.

The United States lighthouse service is celebrating its bicentennial August 7, 1989 - August 4, 1990 concurrently with the U.S. Coast Guard.

Moehl, an investment advisor in Ann Arbor with Beacon Investment Company, lives at Portage Lake.

The meeting is open to the public at no charge. Free parking Sundays across the street. Refreshments will be served.

## CHRISTMAS SOCIAL AT CLEMENTS LIBRARY

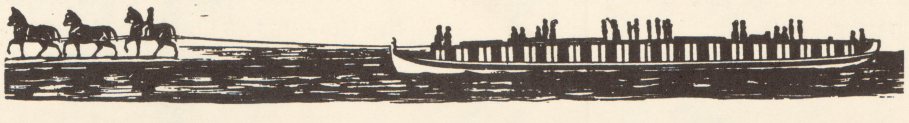
Our toys will be placed under the tree with care at UM Clements Library when WCHS gathers there for a Christmas social at 2 p.m. Sunday, December 10.

The Lyra Male Chorus and Women's Chamber Chorus will entertain with Christmas music. Gini Robison directs the women's group of which President Karen O'Neal is a member.

Holiday refreshments will be served. Marguerite Harms, refreshment chairman, would welcome contributions of Christmas cookies. If you can donate cookies please call her at 662-5845.

No parking on North "U" but in nearby streets and structures.

Next meeting February 18.



## ANDREW TEN BROOK:

# FORGOTTEN FIGURE IN ANN ARBOR HISTORY

By Russell E. Bidlack

Born in Elmira, New York, on September 21, 1814, Andrew Ten Brook, as his name suggests, was of Dutch ancestry. His grandfather, a veteran of the American Revolution, still spoke the mother tongue.

Third youngest of twelve children, Andrew had taught in country schools for several years before enrolling in what was then called Hamilton Literary and Theological Institution, a Baptist college later called Madison University and known today as Colgate University.

At the close of his junior year in 1838, Ten Brook decided to visit two brothers and three sisters who had settled in Lenawee County, Michigan.

Learning of his plan, one of his teachers, a Professor Taylor, asked whether his son might travel to Michigan with Andrew. At age sixteen, young Taylor had agreed to establish a school in the village of Brooklyn in Jackson County.

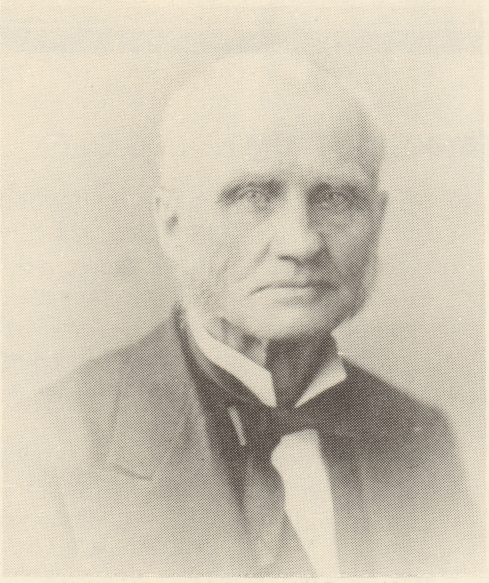
Ten Brook told of this, his first visit to Michigan, in an address before the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society in 1895. The following paragraph from his paper illustrates Ten Brook's style of writing, including his love of anecdotes. It also provides an amusing glimpse of travel on the Erie Canal in 1838.

"Besides him [young Taylor] there were two young ladies who placed themselves under my protection on the journey to Michigan. We were four days getting to Buffalo and it was hot weather and the young men who were with us inquired of the boatman where they might find a place to take a bath.

**When they came to a place where the water was deep enough, they were provided with ropes fastened to a point on the boat that they were told to hold on to. The horses somehow took fright, I don't know how, I think the boatman did, and they set off at a pretty rapid pace.**

Of course, the young men could not hold on to the ropes, and finally had to let go and climb up the bank and run with their bare feet on the gravel. Finally the boatman took pity on them and took them in the boat.

... Taylor was to start a school in the little village of Brooklyn. He went to take his school, and that poor boy almost starved there, and was too proud to go home. ... I suppose all of you know something about B.F. Taylor; he was perhaps the most graphic war correspondent of the Civil War."



Michigan Historical Collections, UM Bentley Library

**ANDREW TEN BROOK, 1877**

As a Baptist clergyman in 1895, the Rev. Mr. Ten Brook would hesitate to use the word "naked" in a public address, but we assume that the young brothers were bare beyond their feet, and we can also assume that the two young ladies who were traveling under Ten Brook's "protection" were instructed to cover their faces during this episode.

Following the awarding of his A.B. degree, Ten Brook continued to study theology at Hamilton for two more years, at the end of which time he again journeyed to Michigan.

In 1841, he was ordained as pastor of Detroit's First Baptist Church. He also assumed the editorship of the *Michigan Christian Herald*, the first religious journal published in Michigan.

Three years later, following a "close vote" by the Board of Regents of the youthful University of Michigan, Ten Brook was appointed to its faculty.

His arrival in Ann Arbor in the autumn of 1844 coincided with the enrollment of the University's first senior class, which numbered eleven. Total enrollment that year reached 55. All were young men, of course.

Throughout his life, Andrew Ten Brook took a keen interest in history, and, what was unusual for his time, this interest extended into local history. For over half a century, he recorded and collected materials pertaining to Ann Arbor's past, and he was a frequent speaker and writer on the subject.

Unfortunately, all except what he had published or shared with friends was lost following his death in 1899. His only granddaughter, Isadore Mudge, who would become a prominent reference librarian at Columbia University, saw fit to burn her grandfather's papers.

(This information was shared with the writer many years ago by Francis L. D. Goodrich, a personal friend of Miss Mudge.)

In fact, she succeeded so well in wiping out his memory that in 1932, when Byron Finney of the U-M library staff was asked to write a biographical sketch of Andrew Ten Brook for the Dictionary of American Biography, he could not find sufficient personal data to complete his assignment. Miss Mudge even declined to respond to his appeal for assistance.

Ten Brook was thus denied the recognition that he deserved; his name does not appear in the D.A.B. We shall speculate later regarding Miss Mudge's possible motive in destroying her grandfather's papers.

**Happily, a number of Professor Ten Brook's writings pertaining to the history of Ann Arbor and the University have been preserved either because they were published or shared in manuscript form with friends prior to his death. In a history of the town's Baptist Church, for example, he provided details not recorded elsewhere of how Ann Arbor happened to become the location of the University in 1837.**

"In 1836... Michigan was about to become one of the states of the Union and had her legislation all ready for the moment when Congressional action should justify its carrying into execution.

The location of the state institutions was one thing legislatively provided for,

and Ann Arbor was among the applicants for the state prison and the University.

The Ann Arbor Land Company had bought about 200 acres of land lying east of Division Street, including the farm of Judge Rumsey ... and offered 40 acres of this farm for the location of the University of Ann Arbor.

Besides this, the citizens raised a considerable amount - $20,000 it is said - and put the same into the hands of a politician who, as they thought, knew how to use it. They never had any report of the use of the money.

It is certain that the University did not get it, and the impression prevailed that it was employed somewhat as were in more recent days the Panama Canal funds; but Ann Arbor got the University."

**From the start, the University of Michigan was viewed with a jaundiced eye by most religious leaders of the new state. Being a creature of government, it was feared that in its curriculum all religious and moral training would be cast aside in favor of the teaching of science.**

Furthermore, the very existence of the University, it was believed, would discourage the establishment of denominational colleges in the new state.

Apprehension heightened early in 1837 when Governor Mason announced his selection of the twelve men who were to constitute the institution's first Board of Regents. Not a single one was a clergyman.

At a time when the clergy normally played a key role in all educational activities, critics could point to this omission as proof, indeed, that the University was destined to become a den of infidels.

Painfully aware of the criticism of the Board's composition, the Regents were determined to prove through their own appointments that religion would have a place. At their very first meeting in Ann Arbor in June 1837, they appointed a local Methodist preacher (the Rev. Henry Colclazer) to be the University's librarian, even though there were neither books nor library building.

With these latter facts in mind, the Regents were prudent to provide neither salary nor duties for Mr. Colclazer, only the title "Librarian." When their appointment the following year of Asa Gray as their first professor further aroused opposition among the University's critics, the Regents' faculty appointees thereafter were clergymen.

Asa Gray visited the site for the University only once, and by the time the first building had been completed and the first students arrived in 1841, he had accepted an offer from Harvard. Michigan thus lost the scholar who would become America's most distinguished botanist.

Typical of the brief appointments for Methodist ministers of the time, the Rev. Mr. Colclazer had been moved on to a different charge by 1841. So it was that neither of the Regents' initial appointments benefited students.

When the first seven students arrived in 1841, they found two resident faculty members ready to instruct them; the Rev. George Palmer Williams (Episcopalian) taught mathematics and science, while the Rev. Joseph Whiting (Presbyterian) taught Greek and Latin. The student-faculty ratio that first year was one professor per 3.5 students - never again would such a ratio exist at UM.

Having committed themselves to the appointment of clergymen to the faculty, the Regents now faced the problem of balancing denominational representation.

The Methodist board members demanded a Methodist professorship, so in 1843, when enrollment justified the addition of a third faculty member, a Methodist clergyman was selected, the Rev. Edward Thomas of Ohio. His title was to be Professor of Moral and Intellectual Philosophy.

Before actually assuming his teaching duties, however, Mr. Thomas resigned to accept the presidency of Ohio Wesleyan University, and it was in his replacement that the two Baptist board members now insisted that their denomination's turn had come in the person of the Rev. Andrew Ten Brook of Detroit.

The Methodist members contended, however, that Thomas should be replaced by another Methodist, their candidate being the Rev. Schuyler Seager of New York. The matter came to a final vote at the Regents' meeting on September 12, 1844, which, according to an account written by Ten Brook many years later, "was the most excited of any which up to that time had ever been held."

**"He continued: Language was used by the Methodist members severely reflecting upon the motives of the other members of the board in this action, and some of the regents ever after held an unfriendly feeling toward the whole Methodist denomination in Michigan."**

Apparently Ten Brook referred here to the Presbyterian Board members whose support of the Baptists had given Ten Brook the appointment. His annual salary of $700 was twice what he had been receiving as pastor in Detroit.

Two years prior to his faculty appointment, Ten Brook had married Mary Gilbert of Utica, New York. Their first child, Edward Gilbert Ten Brook, was an infant in arms when they took up their residence in the spacious house built three years earlier at the cost of $7,500.

The Regents' provision of four such professional homes, along with a handsome four-story dormitory and classroom structure, later named Mason Hall, was the prime example of their initial very liberal expenditure of University funds.

**Their first book purchase further illustrates their dreams of greatness for the University - it was the recently completed 4-volume Birds of America by the ornithologist and artist John James Audubon at a cost of $970. (It could now be sold for at least a million dollars.)**

When writing his history of Ann Arbor between 1893 and 1895, Ten Brook recalled:

In September, 1844, my family took possession of the east[ern] university house on the north side of the campus. [The new Chemistry Building covers that spot in 1989.] Professor Williams' family lived in the house next to us.

The two houses on the opposite side were occupied respectively by Professors Whiting and Honorable Alpheus Felch, then one of the judges of the Supreme Court of Michigan.

The Ten Brook house was large enough for them to rent a room, and Mrs. Ten Brook provided boarding facilities for students as well. A student named Thomas Palmer, in a letter to his mother dated January 9, 1846, noted:

"I went to Mrs. Welsh's to board, but I did not like it as well as I expected, for they had their meals very irregular ... and as Prof. Ten Brook agreed to take me at twelve shillings a week (the same that Mrs. Welch charged) I changed my habitation, and now I am at Prof. Ten Brook's whom I like very well, also Mrs. Ten Brook."

Professor Whiting died before the University's first Commencement in 1845, and the Methodists demanded and finally won their representation on the faculty in the professorship of the Rev. Daniel D. Whedon.

In the same year, however, a fourth member of the faculty was appointed, and the Presbyterians regained their representative in the person of the Rev. John H. Agnew.

As has been noted, Professor Ten Brook joined the U-M faculty amidst controversy, and that controversy would continue. Upon his arrival in Ann Arbor, he found that the small Baptist church located across the Huron River in Lower Town was without a pastor.

He announced that he would be happy to fill its pulpit without compensation. thus the question arose: Was the University supplying the Baptists with a local minister free of charge?

There was also the fact that a professor of moral and intellectual philosophy could claim some right to include religious topics in his class lectures, an opportunity denied professors of mathematics and the classical languages.

Question: Was the Rev. Ten Brook using his classroom lectern as a Baptist pulpit?

**The worst fears of Ten Brook's critics were realized in the spring of 1845 when rumor spread that six University students had announced their conversion to the Baptist faith.**

**Word also spread that the baptismal ceremony which, then as now, meant immersion for Baptists, was scheduled to take place in the Huron River near their church on a Sunday afternoon in June.**

Sunday afternoons could offer few diversions to Ann Arborites in 1845, so it is not surprising that a large number of townspeople (Methodists, Presbyterians, Episcopalians, and even a few non-believers) gathered to watch the ceremony.

A person who was present, Mrs. N. H. Pierce, recalled in her autobiographical sketch for the History of Washtenaw County published in 1881, that many of the spectators found that the narrow Wall Street Bridge over the Huron provided the best view. Mrs. Pierce recalled:

"While in the middle of the solemn ceremony the bridge suddenly gave way, precipitating several hundred people, men, women and children, into the rushing stream. Such screaming, shouts and confusion followed as was truly appalling!

Hats, bonnets, parasols, etc., went floating away with the water. What seemed a matter of great wonderment was the fact that all the people thrown in such a mass, with the debris and the broken bridge, not one was killed and none seriously injured, beyond a thorough ducking and the damage done to clothing.

Of course this unlooked for episode ended the exercises of the day on short order. D. T. McCollum, Jas. Jones and many others who were on terra firma, and thus escaped, did much in rescuing and caring for half-drowned humanity."

While there is no reference to this incident in any of Ten Brook's surviving letters and publications, he recalled other graphic details of his life in Ann Arbor in the 1840s. The following are examples:

"To retrace a Sunday morning's walk to church may ... indicate an aspect of the village of that day. My wife and I might have been seen, that is, if there had been anybody to see us, issuing about 10 o'clock in the morning from the front door of the eastern house on the north side of the University square, traversing a path along the west side of the old cemetery [now Felch Park in front of the Power Theatre] and descending into the wooded ravine.

This ravine threaded, we came near the only house we were to encounter ... the Kellogg farm house ... there wheeling about to the left, we crossed the river on the Wall Street bridge, and were soon at the church on Wall Street."

Ten Brook went on to recall:

"On a Sunday afternoon of 1845 or 1846, sitting by my window, I saw a flock of wild turkeys coming from the southwest, touching ... near the junction of State Street and North University Ave., move on, keeping their direction till they passed out of sight in the ravine north of the old cemetery. ...

Professor Williams and I sometimes took our fowling pieces on Saturdays and went to the woods, which came then very near us, for partridges, to which I ought to add that I have no recollection of ever having shot one of these birds, but I once killed one with a stone, which brings out another feature of the life of the time.

We all then kept cows which ran at large and often strayed to the neighboring forests. One Saturday afternoon of vacation, when the student who did our chores was away, I went to look for the cow, saw a partridge not distant and running from me, threw a stone and killed the bird.

**On returning home with the game and the cow, my sister suggested that I would do well always to take a stone instead of my gun."**

Although the Organic Act creating the University in 1837 had called for the appointment of a president, the Regents took no steps during the 1840s to fill the post. Following the Prussian rectorial system, they ordered that each faculty member in turn serve as president for one year.

Ten Brook acted in this capacity in 1846-46 and again in 1849-50. Had there existed a spirit of cooperation among the faculty, and had the Regents functioned as the friendly and independent tribunal commonly found in denominational schools of the time, an arrangement of this sort might have worked.

Instead, the system bred contention and distust. Furthermore, the Regents, watching closely the Internal affairs of the University, were chary of the authority that they delegated to the faculty, while the State Legislature, resentful of the power that the Organic Act had bestowed upon the Regents, was frequently hostile to both Regents and faculty.

There were even certain politicians and newspaper editors of Ann Arbor who tried to dictate their will upon the operation of the institution.

**Each professor gradually accumulated a list of grievances, one of Ten**

**Brook's being that, in addition to his classes in philosophy, he was required to hear recitations in Latin, a chore which he deemed proper for a tutor, not a professor. The Regents, however, refused to provide funding for tutors.**

The Rev. Daniel Whedon, the Methodist clergyman who taught logic, rhetoric, and history, held strong anti-slavery convictions and wrangled with Ten Brook over the "higher law."

Another source of irritation was the fact that Ten Brook, unlike most college teachers of the time encouraged class discussion, observing that, when students "wish some additional light on a subject which is fairly opened by the text, it gives interest to a recitation room to have those inquiries allowed and answered."

His faculty colleagues resented the popularity which he thus achieved with his students.

His faculty colleagues also continued to watch Ten Brook in his role as quasi-pastor for the local Baptist congregation, including his activities in raising funds to build a new church on Catherine Street.

**In fact, Andrew Ten Brook gave so generously of his time and salary to this project that the resulting structure was called "Professor Ten Brook's Church." Ten Brook once remarked that it might have been named "St. Andrew's Church" had not the Episcopalians named their church to honor a true St. Andrew.**

Toward the end of the academic year in which Ten Brook first served as president, the faculty discovered a problem which would fester over the next several years, finally resulting in a crisis that would not only bring about Ten Brook's departure, but would threaten the very existence of the University.

This was the discovery in the Summer of 1846 that two secret Greek-letter fraternities, Chi Psi and the Beta Theta Pi, had been organized without the consent of either faculty or Regents.

Being unfamiliar with secret societies on college campuses, Ten Brook declined to take action until information regarding them could be obtained from presidents of several eastern universities.

**Most agreed that any secret organization amount students was undesirable. As President Hitchcock of Amherst expressed it, "the principal objection to them lies in their moral influence, which is decidedly bad."**

Faculty and Regents disagreed among themselves on an appropriate course of action. Ten Brook's view seems to have been more liberal than that of his faculty colleagues.

As the fraternity issue simmered ominously without solution during the remainder of the decade, advantage was taken by some to advance their own cause while plotting revenge upon their enemies.

Ten Brook believed that a solution had been found, however, when it was finally agreed that incoming students should be required to sign a pledge not to join any organization whose constitution had not been approved by the faculty.

Since the constitution of any secret organization would not be approved, it was thought that the two fraternities would gradually disappear. In 1849, however, during Ten Brook's second term as president, it was discovered that a number of students who had signed the pledge had then organized a third fraternity, Alpha Delta Phi.

It then became Ten Brook's painful duty, as president, to expel these students, some of whom were sons of members of the State Legislature.

Members of the Masonic Order now entered the dispute, as did one-time members of the Anti-Mason political party, along with members of the Legislature. Even the town of Ann Arbor organized an investigative committee.

**A legislator, who had long held a grudge against Ten Brook, visited the campus and gathered opinions from students and Ten Brook's three faculty colleagues which were severely critical of his performance as president.**

The exact nature of these criticisms is not known, but a messenger was sent to Ten Brook advising him to resign. He ignored the threat, but at the next meeting of the Regents, on January 23, 1851, a member moved that, in view of these charges, Ten Brook should be dismissed at the close of the academic year.

Ten Brook had several strong friends on the board, however, and the resolution was tabled. That evening the most powerful member of the board, Dr. Zina Pitcher, observed in a letter to a friend: "It is the beginning of the end; those professors who have shown their willingness to offer up an associate as a sacrifice of expediency with an eye to their own safety, have sealed their own fate."

On the following day, Ten Brook angrily placed his resignation in the hands of the board's executive committee.

Throughout his life, Ten Brook had difficulty controlling his temper, and on more than one occasion he had reason to regret his verbal outbursts and hasty actions. Years later, he referred to his resignation as "a great blunder, and an act of injustice to the University."

The Regents could have refused to accept his resignation, of course, as Ten Brook had expected they would, but even his friends recognized that his departure would open the way to a possible solution to the whole nasty situation.

The Regents now agreed that the need for a strong executive head for the institution had become acute. Since the university chancellor or president would also have to occupy a professorial chair, and since the proper chair for him would be that of philosophy, the path was now clear to engage such a man.

Thus, on the same day on which the board officially accepted Ten Brook's resignation, its executive committee recommended the names of four men for the presidential post: Francis Wayland, Edward Hitchcock, Mark Hopkins, and Alpheus Felch.

The man eventually chosen, however, was the Rev. Henry P. Tappan, a Presbyterian minister of independent means now in his 48th year. He was a graduate of Union College and the author or numerous philosophical treatises.

Having been forced by circumstance to accept Ten Brook's resignation, his friends among the Regents now awaited their opportunity to punish the three faculty members who had plotted against him.

On December 31, 1851, not only was Professor Whedon dismissed for his anti-slavery agitation, but an excuse was found as well to remove Professors Agnew and Williams.

As Dr. Pitcher had predicted, these men had "sealed their own fate." Only professor Williams was later reappointed.

**Thus did Andrew Ten Brook's first association with the UM come to a**

**stormy close with the end of the 1850-51 academic year. Proud of the title "Professor" and fond of Ann Arbor, he soon regretted his hasty resignation.**

His salary, which had been increased to $1,000 in 1848, had provided not only life's necessities, but many of its luxuries as well. Like other men of means, he kept two "hired girls" and engaged a student to perform such tasks as milking the family cow. The University's long vacations had allowed him to travel and study.

Expecting to continue in his academic post at least until a better offer came from another university, he had, in 1848, invested $550 in a tract of land along what would become Washtenaw Avenue on which to build a home of his own.

Gradually he recognized the bleakness of his future. When the Ann Arbor Baptist congregation offered him the pastorate of the local church, Ten Brook was both flattered and insulted - he was offered an annual salary of $200.

Required to vacate his University house, Ten Brook took his wife and three children to stay with relatives in Adrian, but he remained in Ann Arbor until September, sleeping in the room in Mason Hall which had been his office.

Writing to a fellow clergyman in Rochester, new New York, he rationalized that his misfortune was related somehow to his place of birth and education.

It is a little unfortunate for me that I have been brought up in the west [i.e., western New York]; men are so little to be judged by their latitude and longitude. Perhaps if I had been in some place East, & yet the same man that I am, I might have been president of some great university.

The editorship of the *New York Baptist Register* in Utica became Ten Brook's salvation, although this required his becoming co-owner of the publication, including a substantial financial investment on his part. A subsequent disagreement with his partner, however, soon prompted Ten Brook to look elsewhere for employment.

**In 1855, he began making inquiry regarding appointment as consul or legation secretary in a major European city. Long desirous of an opportunity to study abroad, he was candid in stating his desires in a letter of October 16, 1855, to Robert McClelland, former UM Regent and Governor of Michigan and now Secretary of Interior under President Pierce.**

"By my seven year life as a professor & two years since as an Editor of our oldest religious paper, I have acquired habits which make it not easy for me to return to my public speaking, & my state of health increases this difficulty.

I prefer a place which would give me a residence in a European city, where large Libraries would be accessible & time for study & authorship after fully attending to all my official duties.

Vienna, Brussels, Turin, Berne, Hamburg, Munich & Rome would be among my preferences, & I see that secretaries of legations or consuls are to be appointed to these and other places."

McClelland was but one of Ten Brook's supporters in his application. Lewis Cass wrote on his behalf, as did several prominent clergymen.

Former Congressman Alexander Buell writing to Secretary of State William Marcy, described Ten Brook as "a gentleman of refined manners and polished education" who, while "he has not mingled actively in political strife, yet in his principles and practice has been known as of the democratic faith."

**In the summer of 1856, Secretary of State Marcy, a former Governor of New York who knew Ten Brook personally, offered him the post of Consul at Munich, which he immediately accepted. When the announcement was made, however, Ten Brook's enemies tried to thwart the appointment with the claim that Ten Brook was not a true Democrat.**

Shortly before the family was to sail, J. H. Cleveland wrote from Adrian to McClelland on August 30, 1856, claiming to speak on behalf of Ten Brook's own brother-in-law, Jabez Fisk, to report that during a recent visit to his relatives there he had been guilty of "abusing the Administration and the democratic party, and working at making converts to black Republicanism." Ten Brook's friends prevailed, however and on October 15, 1856, the family sailed for Germany.

During the next six years, 1856-1862, Andrew Ten Brook performed his duties to the full satisfaction of Washington, even receiving some credit for the withholding of German support for the Confederacy following its secession from the Union. And he had fulfilled his dream of European study and travel.

In later years, he would write a number of articles for leading American periodicals regarding his observations and experiences while abroad.

With the election of Lincoln as President, however, he knew that he would be replaced. This came about in 1862.

**In 1863, Andrew Ten Brook and his family again took up residence in Ann Arbor. What his immediate plans were, we do not know. His family now consisted of his wife, Sarah, whom he seldom mentioned in his letters or extant writing and who remains a shadowy figure to this writer; their only daughter Mary Gilbert, now in her 18th year, and two of their five sons.**

Three other sons had been lost. Andrew, Jr., born in 1848, had lived less than four months; Silas Kendrick, born in 1849, had died before his sixth birthday; and Joshua Gilbert, born in 1852, had died prior to his second birthday.

In the absence of any description of Mrs. Ten Brook's personality, we can only speculate that she was probably a woman of sorrow.

We do know, however, that she possessed a rather substantial inheritance, a fact that permitted her husband to weather several periods of unemployment as well as to enable him to be very generous in his support of the Baptist Church and other social causes.

Just as the UM was in a period of upheaval when Ten Brook left Ann Arbor in 1851, so it was when he returned in 1863. On June 25, 1863, President Tappan was suddenly dismissed by the Board of Regents to the amazement and consternation of most faculty, students, and townspeople.

**(To be continued in next issue in February.)**

# WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP, 1989-90

*(Partial listing. Continued from October 1989 issue. From Ann Arbor unless otherwise noted.)*

**Regular & Senior:** *(continued)*
David Cahill & Sabra Briere
Carolyn Graves
John & Floramae Hancock
Marie S. Hansen
Olive E. Hansen
Marguerite Harms
M. Jean Harter
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Norma Wonnacott
Lawrence & Alice Ziegler

**Student:**
Benjamin Mordecai Ben-Baruch
Miss Joy G. Love

## HISTORIC HAPPENINGS INVOLVE:
## BARNS, ORANGE RISDON, CHRISTMAS DOINGS

**Chelsea Historical Society**: 7:30 p.m. second Monday at railroad depot, North Main at tracks. Election of officers in November. Harvest exhibit in depot now, Christmas exhibit planned.

**Dexter Society**: Annual holiday potluck dinner and tree-trimming, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, November 16, at museum, 3443 Inverness. Attenders need to bring table service and dish to pass. The Christmas tree will be hung with the society's collection of hand-made ornaments.

Christmas bazaar and bake sale, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, December 2 at museum. Santa will be on hand for kids 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Family Christmas sing 7 p.m. Friday, December 15, at museum. The society is working to light up all of Dexter village with luminaria Christmas eve.

**Manchester Society**: 7:30 p.m. third Monday at Blacksmith Shop, 324 East Main.

**Milan Society**: 7:30 p.m. third Wednesday at Hack House, 775 County Street.

**Pittsfield Society**: 2 p.m. first Sunday at township hall, State and Ellsworth Roads.

**Salem Society**: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 16, at home of Secretary Vicki Bragg, 6168 Weed Road, north of North Territorial and west of Gotfredson Roads. Program a video on historic barns.

Annual Christmas wassail 2-5 p.m. Sunday, December 10, at home of Al and Peggy Thomas, 10760 West Seven Mile Road, west of Napier.

**Saline Society**: 7 p.m. third Wednesday, Saline Senior Center, 7605 North Maple Road. Alberta Rogers will talk November 15, on *"The Life and Times of Orange Risdon,"* (founder of Saline, 1832).

Third annual *Christmas in Saline* Antique Show 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, December 3, at old Union School on McKay at North Ann Arbor Street. Admission, $2.

Another fund raiser will be a Christmas walk from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Sunday, December 10, between the restored 1879 Victorian home of Jim and Cheryl Hoeft, 322 North Ann Arbor Street, which will be open to tour and the old Railroad Depot where refreshments will be served.

Admission price is not yet set. Advance tickets at Village Loft and Pineapple House antiques and Manufacturer's Bank or at door.

**Webster Society**: 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 11, Christmas potluck dinner at home of Paul and Liz Kleinschmidt, 5922 Webster Church Road. Attenders asked to bring a wrapped gift for a child, labeled for age and gender, also canned goods donation for the needy.

**Ypsilanti Society**: The museum, 224 North Huron, will be decked out in Victorian Christmas decorations for the annual holiday open house, 2-5 p.m. Sunday, December 10. Refreshments will be served. No charge.

The museum will also be open 7-9p.m. Thursday and Friday, December 14 and 15, in addition to regular hours, 2-4 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays so that more persons can enjoy the elaborate decorations.

## 'WHAT IS IT?' GAME OFFERED SCHOOLS, GROUPS

WCHS offers a traveling exhibit of small artifacts set up as a humorous *What is it?* game to schools for children and another for adults.

They are available for classes and meetings, subject to volunteer availability. For information call Arlene Schmid, 665-8773.

They were recently used at Saline High School, Saline Christian School and Mercywood Hospital. Member Richard F. Dunn will assist Mrs. Schmid, the new chairman.

## HOW TO JOIN WCHS

Send name, address and phone number with check or money order payable to Washtenaw County Historical Society to: WCHS Membership, 312 South Division Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-2204. Information: 996-3008.

Annual dues are $10, individual; $18 a couple. Senior individual (60) $8, senior couple $14. Sustaining dues are $50, commerical, $25, and student, $5. Only one of a couple need be 60 to qualify as seniors.

## 'HIGH ART'

"And you say this is a picture of a Ford going twenty miles an hour? I don't see the Ford."

"It's inside that cloud of dust."

*Ford Smiles: All the Best Current Jokes About a Rattling Good Car, by Carleton B. Case, Shrewsbury,* Publishing Company, Chicago, 1917.

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**WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
**2:00 p.m. Sunday**
**November 19, 1989**

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